The Quiet Corner

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PUTNAM TRAVELER

Supporting Tourism & Communities in Northeastern, CT & Beyond...

ISSUE NO. 59 • NORTHEASTERN, CONNECTICUT

DOWNTOWN MAP INSIDE • JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018

For an afternoon, a day, or a weekend...come and enjoy Northeastern Connecticut!

Photo provided by Fran Kefalas, TLGV

The Quiet Corner is a beautiful place to enjoy long summer days an cool summer nights! There is so much to see in and do including outdoor recreation, scenic beauty, historic town greens, unique shopping & dining, live performances, ***First Fridays (downtown Putnam)*** and other seasonal events – there is something here for everyone. Websites including: **www.putnamtraveler.com, www.visitnect.com, www.discoverputnam.com, www.ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home/, www.thelastgreenvalley.org and www.winyradio.com** provide a wealth of information about visiting and exploring northeastern Connecticut. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Putnam Traveler, please tell our advertisers you found them here!

INSIDE:

Local Advertisers...Downtown Putnam Events...This issue of the ***Putnam Traveler*** features...***Elizabeth's Farmhouse*** stands out as a stylish beacon in the midst of centuries old industrial buildings in Putnam, Connecticut. The restaurant is an artistic expression of the many interests of owner Heidi Hoenig Bouchard, who grew up in the Quiet Corner and returned after years away to bring to life her unique vision of hospitality...***Get Out in a Kayak***...getting out on the water is one of the recreational features in northeast Connecticut and there are many paddle guides available to explore the ponds and rivers of eastern Connecticut from the Massachusetts border to the shoreline!

Do you like beer? Want to brew your own? Discover the ***Quiet Corner Homebrew Club (QCHBC)***...It's obvious what draws the 20 regularly attending members of the QCHBC together once a month is a passion for beer. These guys and girls love to drink beer and they also love to talk about what makes good beer good. They love to make their own beer and to learn how to make exceptional beer...and ***Local Libraries***...visiting your local library during summer is not just for rainy days! Library programming today is so much more than book club or story hour. Almost any day of the week you can find interesting and usually free programs for kids, teens and adults. And you usually do not have to be a resident of that town to attend programs.

Downtown Putnam & Area Maps • Businesses • Local Activities • Shopping & Events

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2018 EVENTS

Feb. 10th:	Fire and Ice Festival 12pm-10pm
Mar. 11th:	The Courthouse Bar and Grille/ HMF O'Putnam 5k
May 4th:	First Fridays 6-9pm
May 6th:	Fishing Derby Rotary Park 12-3pm
May 28th:	Memorial Day Parade 10am
June 1st:	First Fridays 6-9pm
June 9th:	Particle Accelerator
July 1st:	Concert: Juice Box 7:15pm Fireworks 9:15pm *(rain date July 8th)*
July 6th:	First Fridays 6-9pm
July 21st:	Country Lovin' Alfresco 7-8:30pm & RiverFire 8:30-10pm *(rain date July 22nd)*
Aug 3rd:	First Fridays 6-9pm
Aug 11th:	Walk & Run for NECT Cancer Fund 9:05am
Aug 11th:	Concert: Eric Genius, Inspirational Pianist 6:30-8pm & RiverFire 8-9:30pm
Aug 12th:	Main Street Car Cruise 10:30-4pm & Arc Duck Race
Sept 7th:	First Fridays 6-9pm
Sept 8th:	Concert: Wooden Horse 6-7:30pm & RiverFire 7:30-9pm
Sept 9th:	Savor the Flavor - Food Festival "Bacon" Music by "Chicago Total Access" 12-3pm
Oct 5th:	First Fridays 6-9pm
Oct 20th:	The Great Pumpkin Festival 10am-3:30pm
Oct 26th:	Trick or Treat on Main Street 5-7pm
Nov 23rd:	Santa Comes to Town 4pm
Nov 25th:	Holiday Dazzle Light Parade 5pm

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FIRST FRIDAYS
DOWNTOWN PUTNAM
MAY-OCT • Events Start at 6pm

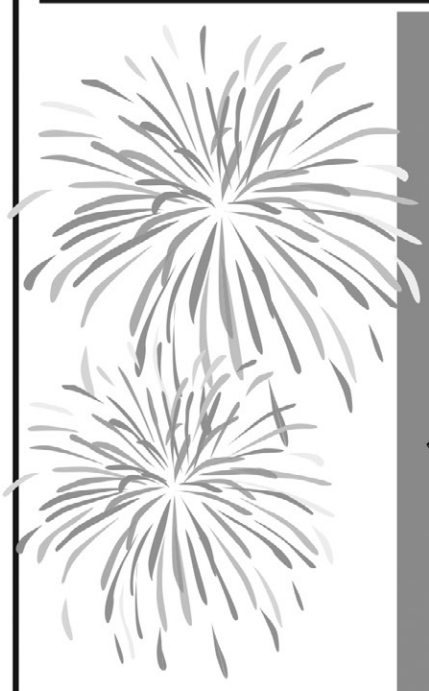
LIVE MUSIC • ART EXHIBITS • DEMONSTRATIONS • PERFORMANCES • ART ATTACKS

First Fridays Mill Town Mosaics

The Quiet Corner's Cultural Heritage

Join us in Downtown Putnam during First Fridays when we will celebrate the mosaic of our Quiet Corner Heritage, with art, music, dance, fine cuisine, quaint shopping, family memories and much more!

May 4 - Polish Americans
June 1 - African Americans
July 6 - French Canadian Americans
August 3 - Greek Americans
September 7 - Native Americans
October 5 - Scandinavian Americans



FIREWORKS
Sunday
July 1, 2018
Putnam
Rain Date July 8

THE ANNUAL MAIN STREET CAR CRUISE

& Arc Rubber Duck Race

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12
10:30 - 4:00PM
Registration begins at 8:00am
Rain Date August 19

Rolling BURNOUTS ARE BACK!

DOWNTOWN PUTNAM

Elizabeth's Farmhouse

An Expression of Artistry in Food and Design

Elizabeth's Farmhouse stands out as a stylish beacon in the midst of centuries old industrial buildings in Putnam, Connecticut. The restaurant is an artistic expression of the many interests of owner Heidi Hoenig Bouchard, who grew up in the Quiet Corner and returned after years away to bring to life her unique vision of hospitality.

Why did she do it? In her own words: "I am passionate about feeding people."

BY NANCY P. WEISS

Whisking away an errant strand of blonde hair from her forehead, Bouchard, dressed in a crisp green chef's jacket, recalled her childhood working along with her sister and brothers at her father's business, The Raceway Restaurant in Thompson. For the Hoenig family, the restaurant and the Thompson Speedway were the center of an operation that now spans four generations. Heidi is clearly proud of her family's success and the hard work on which it was built and which sustains it. Even the name for her own restaurant comes from the family. Her grandmother, Elizabeth is the inspiration behind the restaurant located at 85 Canal Street.

"My grandmother, Elizabeth, was a passionate cook. She was a nurturing person and taught all of us many things. My sisters and I are all good cooks, who love to eat well and entertain on a large scale. Our holiday meals are huge. Elizabeth was able to make excellent food out of nothing and out of the ingredients she grew on the farm or purchased nearby. I now live in her house and feel her presence in the restaurant all the time," Heidi Bouchard said with a laugh.

After earning a degree in business, Heidi returned to Thompson, later moving to Providence where she lived for twenty years. There she honed her skills as a designer and decorator, working with a high-end catering company west of Boston as head of style and design, staging large corporate events and private parties. When she returned to her grandmother's house, she thought she would establish a catering business and sell prepared meals. She began searching for an appropriate place and was stymied by the lack of a spot in the center of Putnam. When she found the small, antique building on Canal Street, she knew she could unleash her personal vision and modify the property to suit her taste". Little did she know that it would take her a year and a half to complete the job.

"I decided to renovate and alter the building myself. My cousin, Cindy Sherman, worked with me. We built the bar, wallpapered the bathroom, installed the floors and stenciled them ourselves. We had a lot of fun. I used objects I've been collecting for ages such as the tractor seats hung near the bar. We spray painted a quarter of a mile of barbed wire gold and wound it around the lamp shades in the center of the dining room. We made the curtains and the pillows. And best of all, it came out cute," she said.

Customers feel they are in a special place when they enter the building and their expectations are heightened by the menu, which is an expression of what Heidi Bouchard likes best.

"I wanted to create restaurant with simple food that tastes great. I like excellent meatloaf and delicious mashed potatoes. I don't want fancy food. I don't want small portions. I don't want food that is stacked on top of each other. To do simple food well. Everything has to be the very best we can source. I want my diners to take home what is left from dinner and think of me when they eat it for lunch the next day," she said.

Elizabeth's Farmhouse was a success from the moment the doors opened. Customers line up outside or wait in the hall near the bar for a table. The menu, which features a broad selection from the popular Brussel sprout appetizer to specials such as, bronzino, a saltwater fish often served in Italy. Every item meets Bouchard's rigorous standards for freshness. She uses as many locally sourced items as possible, but when she needs to reach beyond the area, she buys from vendors she trusts. "Fussy" is how she describes her purchasing pattern.

The interior of the restaurant is undergoing a seasonal update in both the décor and the menu. An adventurous cook, Bouchard, spends what little spare time she has reading cookbooks. The new menu will feature foods she enjoys and wants to share. She sews the pillow covers and makes other decorative items and built a long, raised herb garden along the outside of the kitchen to put fresh herbs within easy reach.

Eighteen people make up the team at the restaurant. Many are relatives and old friends. On-line reviews often mention the warmth and engagement of the staff, who know many of the diners and are quick to welcome visitors to the area. Four chefs work with Heidi in the kitchen. She knows how hard the restaurant business can be on the people who work in it and goes out of her way to make sure her staff live balanced lives.

The future of Elizabeth's Farmhouse will include offering Sunday brunch. Catering services will be expanded from an enlarged kitchen area. A small addition to the dining room will add much needed table seating.

"I live for food. I own about 800 cookbooks and I read about food all the time. I love design. I have enough fabric to last me forever. I'm happiest planning, designing and creating," said Heidi Hoenig Bouchard with a smile. Patrons of Elizabeth's Farmhouse enjoy the creative flow of food and décor on a cozy side street in Putnam.

Elizabeth's Farmhouse is open Tuesday through Saturday.

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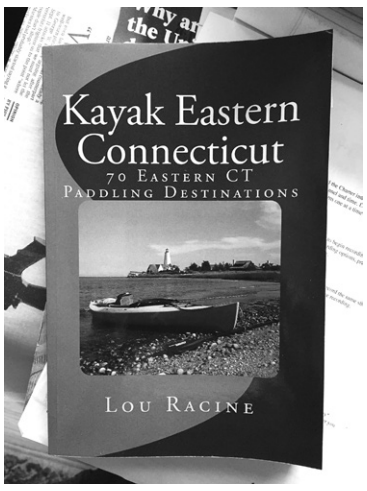
GET OUT IN A KAYAK.

Paddle Guides for exploring rivers and ponds in eastern Connecticut

Birding, fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Getting out on the water is one of the recreational features in northeast Connecticut. The places to do this are not a secret. Information is available in extensively researched published guides that supplement word of mouth. Enthusiasts familiar with local waters have compiled lists of the locations of boat launches and suggestions for paddles for skill levels ranging from novice to whitewater-experienced. Such local information supplements material available from Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). With details about paddling the region's peaceful ponds and flowing rivers so clearly spelled out, it's easier than ever to match a venue with your skill level, the weather, and water conditions.

BY CAROLINE SLOAT

Kayaking Eastern Connecticut (2016) by Lou Racine, offers seventy destinations from the Massachusetts border to the shoreline. Bill Reid, chief ranger at The Last Green Valley (TLGV), who has recently overseen the creation of a series of Paddle Guides describing the region's rivers, credits the AMC guides to padding in the tri-state area for getting him started "and now TLGV is the go-source of paddling in the region." He observes that Racine's guide complements the work of the Heritage Corridor. "She shows that there are a lot of flat-water ponds to check out, and we tend to stick to the rivers with a lot of information on our website," says Reid. The Quinebaug River National Recreation Water Trail offers 45 miles of paddling. Nearby are 22 miles of paddling on the Willimantic River National Recreation Water Trail and 20 more on the Shetucket River National Recreation Water Trail. Racine also describes paddles on the Quinebaug, as well as the Pachaug, Yantic, and Thames rivers.



Both Racine and Reid emphasize safety in their enthusiasm for paddling. "I love to get people involved in kayaking," says Racine, but "safety is one of my biggest concerns." Racine has been kayaking much of her life. "I was so young the first time I went out in a boat, I just don't remember when I started." She warns that novice paddlers "may not recognize the dangers that more seasoned paddlers easily identify" and writes in her book's introduction that she has made "a significant effort to describe potential hazards and risks."

Life jackets are an essential piece of equipment: state law in Connecticut requires every person in a kayak or canoe to wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket between October 1 and May 31; from June 1 through September 30, there must be a life jacket aboard for each person. Racine recommends wearing a life jacket at all times, and boaters in all the illustrations in the TLGV Paddle Guide are pictured wearing them.

With that in mind, imagine planning an expedition to enjoy fresh air, exercise, bird watching, fishing (with a license), viewing historical sites from the water, and fun. Racine's book is organized alphabetically by location (and indexed by town). The detailed entries are based on at least one visit. Each entry includes a description of the paddle, directions for finding the launch sites, the date of her most recent visit, and a summary of her experience. As an example, Racine describes Hall's Pond in Eastford, as "one of my favorite places to hang out and unwind." A small pond, it covers a little more than eighty acres, "but the many islands and rock formations on the pond give it a tranquil feeling and the illusion that it's bigger than it actually is." This is a prime bird watching site. A boat on the water offers a unique view of osprey, from their perches high in the

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trees to their dives into the water to catch and eat fish. And, as a side note, "if you have ever wondered, "where the Canada geese go for the summer," look around Hall's Pond!

Several paddle sites along the Quinebaug presented by Racine also appear in the TLGV Paddle Guide that focuses on the Quinebaug River Water Trail. This is actually a series of paddles of varying lengths and difficulty in sections between the dams and portages that punctuate the river's flow. Both identify the public boat launches and discuss river paddles in Brooklyn, Danielson, and Canterbury, agreeing that because of the proximity of the Danielson Falls to the boat launch in Brooklyn's Riverside Park, it is best to go upstream toward Rogers Dam, a distance of 4.4 miles. The Paddle Guide recommends this stretch as "a good place for novice travelers to enjoy the river." The "islands and sand bars to explore" but these are challenges unless the upstream paddler stays to the left. However, it is worth comparing the two guides while considering this paddle. In contrast, Racine has experienced low water and has found that paddling against the current can be a challenge. The payoffs are the view of the dam on the downstream side and watching the birds and wildlife that thrive on the rich habitats along that stretch. Racine advises paddlers unfamiliar with an area to seek out a trail along the shoreline to explore new sections of water, looking out for rocks or a hurdle such as a downed tree before launching.

The Quinebaug River can be viewed as segments ranging from stretches of a mile or two up to fifteen miles (Killingly to Canterbury), with some mid-length river segments (Holland Pond to East Brimfield Lake, 4.6 miles; Putnam to Pomfret, 6.5 miles, and Riverstide Park in Brooklyn upriver to Rogers Dam, 4.8 miles). West Thompson Lake may be accessed alone or at the end of an 11.8 miles paddle from Dudley River Road in Southbridge. The river is not accessible for its full length. This is partly the result of its industrial past, when dams and ponds were built to power factories. Most of the factories are gone, as are many of the dams. There are, however, ten surviving dams or broken dams that are clearly indicated as danger points to be avoided. Along the paddles, however, there are many other interesting features from the industrial era.

Each segment that can be paddled is described in detail. The information provided includes coordinates, driving directions, parking information and proximity to the launch, and whether there are restrooms. The description of Aspinook Pond in Canterbury at the end of the river trail exemplifies the observations that are made: "The still water of the Pond and the easy access make this an excellent place for novice paddlers to learn new skills safely. The scenery is less dramatic than upriver, but you may see everything from bald eagles and osprey to wood ducks, Canada geese and mergansers. You can paddle downriver on the pond almost 3 miles to Jewett City."

The Paddle Guides are an indication of the evolution of the mission of the Heritage Corridor and an opportunity to create its own niche. TLGV is charged with preserving the natural and cultural resources of the region. This region is already well served with museums doing historical and cultural work, (so TLGV programs events to bring these groups together to discuss shared issues). The forest preservation and land trust communities also function effectively in collaboration with Connecticut's State Parks and CT Forest and Park Association. But the rivers beckoned as a key part of the area that was underserved. Water quality and related issues are overseen in the Thames River watershed by a working group the Thames River Basin Partnership (http://www.thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/). TLGV has also adopted water monitoring as part of its mission doing such work as bacteria counts at smaller boat launches.

Paddling entered the picture as TLGV's involvement in water issues developed. The Source to the Sea program in the summer of 2009 was initiated as a water quality awareness program over a nine-week period. Paddles from the headwaters of the Quinebaug (in Massachusetts), to the Shetucket were the northeast regional effort that linked with others on the Willimantic, Natchaug, Five Mile, and Shetucket rivers. These paddle groups met in Norwich and continued down the Thames into salt water ending at Avery Point.

The educational component of these paddles still stands out in Reid's memory. "We had festivals along the way, education about water quality monitoring and checking for pollution." The realization that a "viable paddle guide to the main stem river was needed came out of that program." And the on-line Paddle Guides to the Quinebaug, Willimantic, and Shetucket Rivers are the result.

A grant paid for the guides and the installation of information kiosks at the major public launches. The kiosks were built to the same design by carpentry students at H.H. Ellis Technical High School. Each has information about the site and the water experience. TLGV applied to the U.S. Department of the Interior for designation as a National Recreational Water Trail. And this loops back to the documentation through the paddle guides: The trail portions on the river are family friendly, with some more suitable for novices, and the owners of the boat launches have signed agreements for their maintenance. This accomplishment is unique in New England, possibly east of the Mississippi, as a way to offer recreational opportunities and water quality monitoring.

Reid and Racine agree that greater understanding of the waterways in the region is the best argument for keeping the rivers, streams, and ponds unpolluted and free of trash. Then they can be enjoyed for their recreational value and enjoyment.

Opportunities for group paddles are found on the TLGV website. The Walktober brochure will include several paddles, and in 2019 Spring Outdoors will return with more group paddles. And in the meantime, Reid is putting together a summer sunset and full moon paddle on Webster Lake for July 27. While this is organized for members of TLGV, others are welcome to attend as well–and would be a perfect introduction to the Heritage Corridor. Contact bill@tlgv directly for information since the final details were not available at press time.

Kayaking Eastern Connecticut (2016) by Lou Racine may be ordered from your favorite online bookseller. _Explore! The Last Green Valley,_ is a free seasonal guide to programs and events in 2018. Printed copies and available on the TLGV website, http://thelastgreenvalley.org/
The Paddle Guide for the Quinebaug, Willimantic, and Shetucket River Water Trails (2016) is a PDF that can be downloaded from the extensive website maintained by the heritage corridor--http://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/recreation-guides/paddling/

Move Over Wine Snobs! Make Way for the Beer Nerds.

This June, I met five members of the Quiet Corner Homebrew Club (QCHBC) on the back patio of Black Pond Brews in downtown Danielson. Heather & Shane Merson, Shannon Jutras, John Herrmann, Josh Bourque and Jim Arpin joined me for an interview about their club. The space is a simple brick-paved venue with a couple of tables & chairs and a gas fire pit, shaded by a canopy. Black Pond Brews opened on the street level of Danielson Adventure Sports bike shop in 2012. At first, the brewery was a concrete, utilitarian affair with stainless steel equipment that allowed them to brew beer. Over the next two years, they built out the space to include a tasting room where they could sell growlers and eventually pints. They fancied up the joint with upcycled décor, like a bar made of reclaimed wood and old pallets, to offer a comfortable, friendly place to hang out and enjoy their craft beer.

BY CRIS CADIZ

Black Pond Brews is where the Quiet Corner Homebrew Club holds monthly meetings. It is also a fitting setting for our interview because the club was founded by brewery owners Mike Teed and Cory Stiff. These two friends from Woodstock loved to brew beer and wanted to share their hobby (which eventually became a successful commercial enterprise) with others. There were no other homebrew clubs in the area, so they Cory and Mike formed their own. QCHBC became official and affiliated with the American Homebrewers Association in 2013.

It's obvious what draws the 20 regularly attending members of the QCHBC together once a month is a passion for beer. These guys and girls love to drink beer and they also love to talk about what makes good beer good. They love to make their own beer and to learn how to make exceptional beer.

What's not immediately clear is why this hobby is so fascinating, even addicting. After an hour of talking to them, I think that part of the attraction is magic. You never really know exactly how a batch is going to turn out. Brewers do their part in assembling the ingredients and maintaining the right conditions, but the yeast does all the work. It's a fermentation collaboration.

Shannon Jutras has been on the QCHBC board for two years, serving as vice president in 2017 and president this year. She is smart and funny and was into home brewing even before she joined the club. "I was a huge fan of craft beer," she says. "My husband is a handy kind of guy and said, 'We can do better than this! If you want this to be your hobby you should learn how to make it.'' So she did. He bought Shannon her first kit and now he helps her build their own homebrew equipment. "It helps to have a partner who either brews with you or is okay with it taking over part of your house," she jokes.

"There is a nerdy craft beer world expression," Shannon says, to help explain homebrewers' passion. "People make wort," she says (explaining that wort

is the liquid you boil when you start to brew), "but yeast makes beer.... The real magic that happens is left to these microorganisms. There's a little alchemy to it. You put everything you can into brew day. You nurse it. You dry hop it at the right time. You play with the temperature, but at the end of the day, it's what the yeast does that matters."

"It's part science, part art," says Shane Merson, who, along with his wife Heather, has been part of the club since 2014. Heather is club treasurer and secretary and keeps the group organized. Being a DIYer is part of why she enjoys home brewing. "Anything you can make yourself I want to," she says, "even building the equipment."

Apparently, it's not that expensive to get started. It can be as little as free if your first homebrew kit is a gift. This is often how the "addiction" begins--as it did with the Mersons, who received a gift card to a brewing website from Shane's mom. Heather chimes in, "Yeah, and then you learn more about how to brew and you want to buy more things and it just snowballs." It costs roughly $100 for a basic homebrew kit. The average price to brew a "simple" 5-gallon batch of beer ranges from $30 to $50.

"People think brewing more complicated than it is," says Shannon. "Your first extract batch is actually pretty simple and it's really cool. If coming to a meeting helps people dust off that kit they got for Christmas and haven't used yet, then we want to meet them and help them give it a go."

"The reason I joined the club," says John Herrmann, "was that the meetings had an educational piece, the chance to evaluate and sample other beers, and comradery with other interested people who didn't glaze over when you talked about beer."

Herrmann visited Europe as a teen and "...of course, drank all the beer I could get my hands on." When he came of drinking age at home (conspiratorial chuckle) and started to sample American beers, he was dissatisfied. "They were horrendous after drinking all the beautiful beers in Germany and Switzerland!" He started searching out craft beer, like Smutty Nose, Sam Adams, Wachusett. "My mother saw that and bought me a kit. Then I started building my own homebrew equipment, welding kegs and so on. It just kind of mushroomed."

In the last decade, craft beer has been an explosive trend in the adult beverage industry. Almost every package store features cooler cases full of six packs and four packs with funky names, flavors and colorful artwork made in small batches by small breweries. Beer is flavored with herbs, fruit, chocolate, coffee, sea salt, even moss and seaweed. Beer drinkers have hundreds and hundreds of choices beyond Budweiser, Miller and Coors.

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"When I first started drinking the 'good' beers," said Josh Bourque, "it was hard to find specific types of beer or it was too expensive. I went from Killian's and pale ale to finding stouts and porters and then there was the IPA explosion. I fell in love with hops and bitterness. Even today you can go into a convenience store and find Collective Arts or Clown Shoes--which is pretty crafty. And having breweries opening nearby, you are constantly exposed to delicious craft beers. Somebody put love into it and you can appreciate what they've done with it. You can never go back to drinking something that doesn't have a taste."

Jim Arpin, who joined the club in January, describes how he got into home brewing. "I fell in love with Sam Adams and the whole story behind it. Jim Koch is a phenomenal brewer and he started making a lot of beers no one had ever tried before, different flavors that got to people's taste buds--lambics, ales, lagers, chocolate stouts, bocks, etc. I graduated to the better and more flavorful, complex beers. I got into visiting different breweries and met the guys here at Black Pond. It's like a family. They help us get through and talk about different types of beers and what we want to do with our recipes."

QCHBC is definitely not a drinking club. "Our mission is to learn about and celebrate craft beer and brewing," Shannon explains. "So we want to encourage responsible consumption. If we didn't like beer, we wouldn't be brewing it, but we want to distinguish it from just getting together and having a couple of pints. There's more to it than that."

Heather describes a meeting where they put "off" flavors in a plain beer like Coors Light. Members tasted the flavors to discuss how to fix them if they appeared in their home brews. "So if there's over-oxidization or if some kind of bacteria gets in your beer, you can say, 'Oh that's why it doesn't taste like it should'," she says. Another meeting they had a hop farmer come and talk about how soil affects the taste of the beer.

The club is a place to practice, experiment and improve. "With your friends and family, they always say it's great but when you come to the homebrew club people will give their honest opinion," Heather says. Shannon agrees. "The club offers a space where we can give honest feedback so we can get better and learn from each other or pick someone's brain when they have made something great and try to figure out what they did to make it successful."

"We try to learn from each other to make the best beers we can and learn as we go," says Jim. The practice can lead to entering regional and national homebrew competitions or just goofing around to make the weirdest beer. Think edible glitter (holiday!) or green apple jelly bellies added to a sour brew. The latter apparently was great for Halloween (candy-like sweet plus toxic green color).

Becoming a homebrewer has many benefits. It can increase your popularity. "When people start to know you brew beer and are successful at it, you get a lot more friends than you ever thought," Jim admits. And it's a great DIY gift. Shannon brewed a keg of "Brian IPA" for her Dad's 60th birthday. Heather and Shane gave bottles of "Nuptu-ale" as gifts at their wedding. And Josh made his newlywed friends a batch of "Brewly-Wed."

Maybe best of all, being a homebrewer can help spread the passion for beer. "If you made it yourself, all of a sudden your friends and family care a lot about the fact that you made it. You get to talk about and celebrate beer with all these people who previously didn't think they were interested," says Shannon. "If you know a homebrewer, you might try a beer which you ordinarily might not buy," she adds. "It changes people minds about beer. When they like it, they buy more beer from small businesses, which supports the industry. It's self-fulfilling. People never say no to free beer!"

A big beer misconception, according to Heather, is that people think that women don't like beer. WRONG! They like to drink it; they like to make it; and they want to encourage other women to get into homebrewing. They are passionate about it. Shannon teared up when she talked about the Pink Boots Society event at Black Pond Brews, which QCHBC sponsored this spring. "It's a great hobby that's welcoming to everybody," she says.

The Pink Boots Society is an international non-profit organization dedicated to supporting women in the brewing industry, especially craft brewing. The society helps women get mentors, network, gain education by raising & providing scholarship money, and in general raises the awareness of women in brewing. Every year since 2013, the organization promote a big brew day in collaboration with International Women's Day. This year over 250 breweries across the country participated. The Quiet Corner Homebrew Club collaborated with Black Pond Brews to host 16 women to brew beer together. They raised over $400 and Black Pond Brews put their beer on tap and donated some of those sales to the Pink Boots Society. "We succeeded beyond our wildest dreams in raising the profile of women interested in beer when the Associated Press came and covered the brew day," says Shannon emotionally. "It was honestly one of the coolest things...getting women excited to come brew."

Another annual event that drew public attention to QCHBC was Danielson's xx annual Harmony & Hops. "We were the most popular tent," boasted Josh. This year they featured nine different beers, all different styles including a saison, barley wine, stouts, brown ale, and an IPA flavored with piña colada. "Not to gloat but there was no bad beer in the bunch," says Shane. "It was cool that our table stood on its own against all these professional breweries," adds Heather. "It was exciting that our beers were memorable."

QCHBC has a calendar of meetings planned a year in advance. "Come to a meeting," says Shannon. "There's not too many places you can go, put yourself out there just a little bit and be assured that someone will hand you a beer--a good beer!" Heather explains that you can attend 2-3 meetings without paying dues and you don't have to brew to join. Membership cost is $20/year for an individual or $30/family.

For more information, visit www.qchbc.com or email qchbc1@gmail.com. The most current info is on Facebook; search for Quiet Corner Homebrew Club. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 7PM at Black Pond Brews in Danielson.

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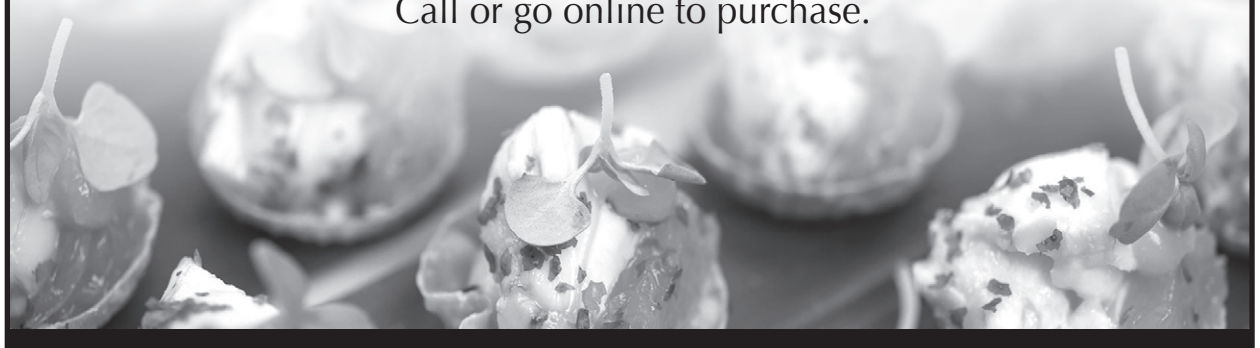
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Any Day Summer Fun AT THE LIBRARY

Visiting your local library during summer is not just for rainy days! Library programming today is so much more than book club or story hour. Almost any day of the week you can find interesting and usually free programs for kids, teens and adults. And you usually do not have to be a resident of that town to attend programs.

BY CRIS CADIZ

Check out the offerings below and at other libraries in the Quiet Corner for diverse opportunities, which range from reading to art to exercise to music to movies. Tristan Mioduszewski, Children's Library Assistant at Killingly Public Library says it best, "We have so much going on. We have countless programs. It's gonna be a fun summer!"

Libraries Rock! Some of our local libraries are participating in a national themed event sponsored by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP). Founded in 1987, CLSP is a consortium of states working together to help provide high-quality summer reading programs at the lowest cost possible for public libraries. This year, Pomfret, Killingly, Putnam and Thompson Public Libraries are offering cool, music-themed programs and events inspired by this year's CSLP theme. Patrons of all ages can enjoy summer reading challenges, concerts & performances, hands-on activities, educational programs and lots more! Tune in to each library to see what they offer.

A few libraries kick off their summer reading programs with live music and other fun events and activities. This starts in mid-June, once kids are out of school, but participants can jump in at any time to keep track of their reading and win prizes. Each library has a different system, but they all offer incentives to keep books open and minds growing during the summer months.

It's not just for kids... Claudette Stockwell, Assistant Director of Killingly Public Library, explains that the Friends of Killingly Public Library organization is supporting the Adult Summer Reading Program this year with prizes that include $20 gift certificates to local businesses. "We are proud supporters of the Killingly Business Association and believe in shopping local!"

Putnam Public Library also offers summer reading challenges for any age, with prizes and awards for all. Children who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge are invited to an ice cream sundae party in August. Teens who complete the challenge can celebrate with a Tie-Dye Party, where they can tie-dye, win prizes and enjoy root-beer floats. Putnam Library has great kids' programs offered weekly, with themed programs for kids of all ages. They include crafts, Yoga, music & movement, even daily scavenger hunts & walk-in crafts. See their newsletter or look online for times, dates & and other info. They even have a Facebook page just for Teens & tweens (ages 9-16) at **www.facebook.com/pplteensandtweens.**

At Killingly Public Library, you can register on their website or stop in person to sign up for summer reading challenges and take part in reading incentives and music related challenges for 2018. They also host an ice cream sundae party at the end of the summer reading program. "Kids will be reading this summer to vote for their favorite book characters to be in a band...since Libraries Rock!" says Children's Librarian Kim Flynn.

At Pomfret Library, you can earn Book Bucks for time spent reading and then spend them at the Library Summer Store. Incentives are offered for the whole family. According to Library Director Laurie Bell, "Adults can enter their names in drawings for gift cards at local music venues – one chance for each book read or listened to." This year, Pomfret librarians created weekly "Playlists," with fun activities tailored to different age groups, including crafts such as upcycled mandala CD art and DIY iPod speakers for the Teen/Tween group, which meets on Thursday afternoons from June 28-August 9. The "All Ages" Playlist, offered Tuesdays at 11AM, includes "World Beatles Day," "Musical Legos," and "DIY Wind Chimes" among other fun and creative programs. Check out the library calendar to find out what's happening each week.

Killingly Public Library jumped on the Libraries Rock! bandwagon this summer, offering many music-related programs, including arts, crafts and "maker"

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programs for kids of different ages. For example, there is a Dulcimer Workshop & Performance on July 11th for Ages 5 and up. And on July 13, children ages 7–11 can learn the basics of reading music as well as enjoy some other musical activities using the library's collection of instruments to explore musical notes. On July 20th–Music Biography Day–kids can learn about folk musician Pete Seeger and read The Golden Thread by Colin Meloy. Then special guest Kevin Collins will play folk favorites on his banjo.

Many libraries offer ongoing adult programs, such as book discussion groups or knitting circles, plus more diverse opportunities such as Pomfret's weekly "Qi Gong for Health & Peace," held every Friday at 3PM. Adult Program Librarian Nick Beams is a 20-year practitioner of this ancient Chinese energy art, which can be done sitting or standing, and requires little physical ability.

Killingly Library hosts interesting and educational presentations for adults, often supported by their Friends group. For example, Fly Fishing on July 14 at 10AM features fly fishing adventures with David Kolesar. David is certified by the International Federation of Fly Fishers as a fly casting instructor and also teaches fly casting and fly fishing for L.L. Bean's Burlington, MA, store. Thompson Library holds regular art shows, showcasing the work of local artists in their large meeting room.

Pomfret Public Library created a free "Libraries Rock! Summer Concert Series" featuring local artists. Concerts will take place on the library's lovely shaded deck in July and August. "Bring yourself, bring your family and friends, bring a chair, bring a picnic if you like!" The schedule includes Eavesdrop, playing acoustic, folk and soul; the Quiet Corner Fiddlers;

RaeChill, an acoustic solo set with lead singer from the local band Positive NRG; and a cool jazz trio with Earl MacDonald, recording artist, composer & UCONN Director of Jazz Studies. Check their website for dates, times, more info on the musical groups, and rain locations.

Allison Whiston, Killingly Public Library Children's & Teen Librarian sums up summer fun at our local libraries: "Libraries really do ROCK. It's all about making music this summer! Libraries are the perfect place for the entire family to visit. So many programs, events and books for kids [of all ages!] to enjoy."

To visit or for more information:

Killingly Public Library
25 Westcott Road, Danielson
860-779-5383 / www.killinglypl.org
Open Monday 9:30-5:30, Tuesday – Thursday 9:30 – 7, Friday 9:30-5:30, Sat 9:30-2:30

Pomfret Public Library
449 Pomfret St., Pomfret
860-928-3475 / www.pomfretlibrary.org
Open Tuesday - Thursday 10-6, Friday 2-6, Saturday 10-2

Putnam Public Library
225 Kennedy Drive, Putnam
860-963-6826 / www.putnamct.us/putnam-public-library
Open Monday-Thursday: 10am-8pm, Friday: 10am-5pm, Saturday: 10am-3pm, closed Saturdays in July & August

Thompson Public Library
934 Riverside Drive
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860-923-9779 / www.thompsonpubliclibrary.org
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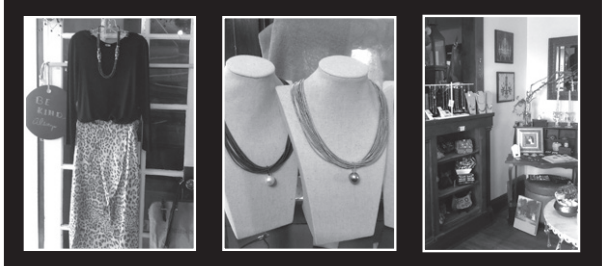

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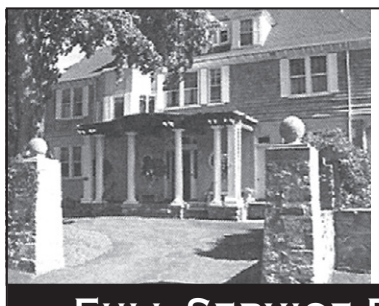

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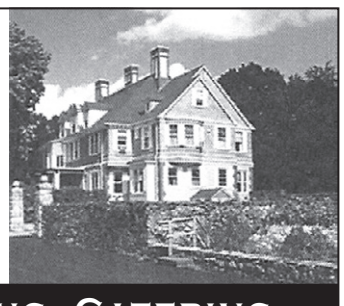

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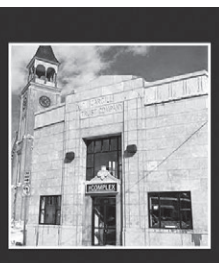

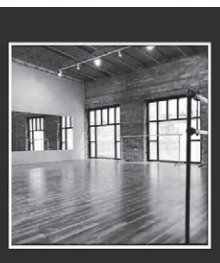

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